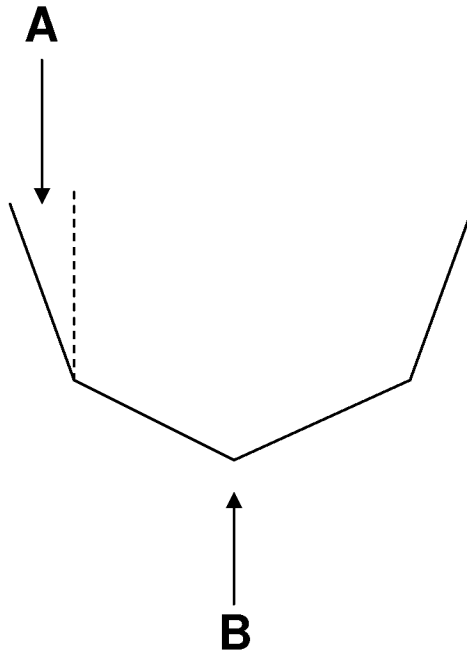


Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this Application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An instrument panel for the interior of a vehicle passenger compartment equipped with an inflatable airbag device adapted to be deployed into a passenger space in said passenger compartment, said instrument panel including a covering having an outer surface exposed to view and a knife-cut weakening groove in said covering located beneath the outer surface for weakening the instrument panel in the form of at least a portion of an opening at said location of said airbag device, said weakening groove comprising a V-shaped configuration, wherein said V-shaped configuration comprises the following general shape:



wherein angle A is less than angle B and wherein said weakening groove has sides and said V-shaped configuration prevents healing of said sides back together.

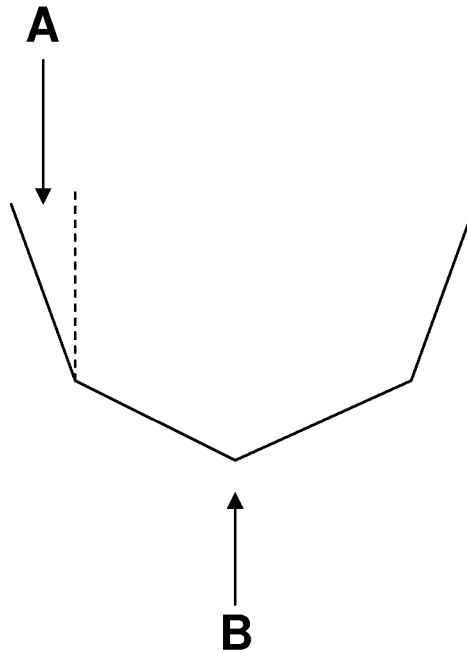
Claim 2. (Original) The instrument panel of claim 1, wherein angle A is between 5-30 degrees and angle B is between 75-150 degrees.

Claim 3. (Original) The instrument panel of claim 1 wherein angle A is 10-20 degrees and angle B is between 90-130 degrees.

Claim 4. (Original) The instrument panel of claim 1 wherein angle A is 15 degrees and angle B is 110 degrees.

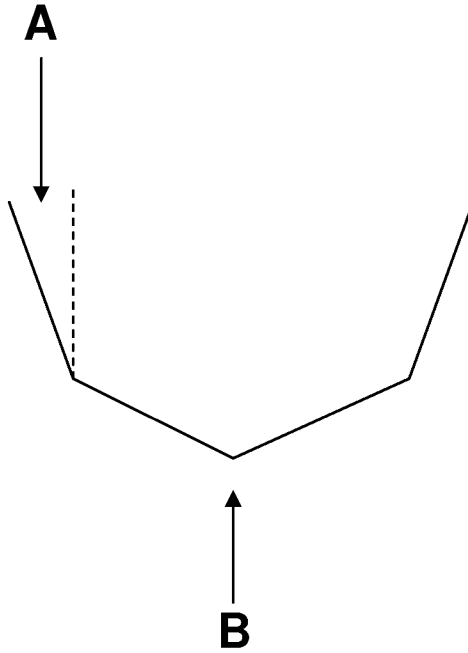
Claim 5. (Withdrawn) A method for providing a weakening groove in the underside of a plastic skin to be used as the covering layer for an instrument panel which overlies an inflatable air bag device in the interior of a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

molding a plastic skin,
providing an ultrasonic knife having a double angle blade,
contacting the underside of the plastic skin with said double angle knife blade,
scoring the underside of said plastic skin with said knife blade, wherein said double angle blade comprises the following general shape:



wherein angle A is less than angle B.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A cover skin for a component of the interior of a vehicle passenger compartment equipped with an inflatable airbag device adapted to be deployed into a passenger space in said passenger compartment, said cover skin having an outer surface exposed to view and a knife-cut weakening groove in the cover skin located beneath the outer surface for weakening the cover skin in the form of at least a portion of an opening at said location of said airbag device, said weakening groove comprising a V-shaped configuration, wherein said V-shaped configuration comprises the following general shape:



wherein angle A is less than angle B and wherein said weakening groove has sides and said V-shaped configuration prevents healing of said sides back together.